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After Earning $15 Million in Her Career . . .

Eartha Kitt Reveals She's Flat Broke—Blames CIA & Greedy People She Trusted

SINGER Eartha Kitt says the CIA destroyed her career in the U.S.

Sultry songbird Eartha Kitt reveals she's flat broke — and she says it's because greedy hangers-on robbed her blind and the CIA deliberately destroyed her career in America.

"I've made at least $15 million in my career — yet today I sit here without a nickel in cash," the singer lamented in an interview at her California home.

Curling up on her living room sofa with catlike grace, Eartha said much of her money went for taxes, agents and managers — but that far more was stolen.

"While I was at the peak of my popularity, I began to find out that people were putting themselves on the payroll and getting a free ride on me," said the entertainer, her voice a velvety purr.

"There were many people in my organization at one time whose financial practices were not in my best interests — and in fact contributed very much to my financial detriment.

"I love and trust people. As a result, I ended up being taken advantage of. Many of us entertainers are in the same boat — we trust someone we shouldn't have, and don't find out differently until it's too late."

Eartha paused, then told how the CIA had helped push her off the top of the show business heap.

She said she was "robbed" of her career in America after speaking out against the Vietnam War at a White House luncheon given by Lady Bird Johnson in 1968. Eartha told Lady Bird:

"You send the best of this country off to be shot and maimed . . ."

The singer's remarks were given wide play in the press — "and the very next day, according to a CIA dossier sent to me by columnist Jack Anderson, President Johnson put my name on a list of subversive people," she said.

"He also gave orders that my career was to be killed across America.

"Soon after that Washington trip, I went to my office and found several of my club contracts stamped 'canceled,' " Eartha continued.

"At first I figured the clubs just didn't want me at that time. But cancellations continued for several years.

"Only last year did I discover that the CIA had prepared a dossier on me.

"In it are slanderous accusations of every kind. I'm accused of being a nymphomaniac, of being spoiled and difficult.

"It also says that when I lived in Paris I led a 'loose life' — when in reality I studied all the time!"

This past January, Eartha sang at the Plaza Hotel in New York. It was the first time in years that she had worked in America, Eartha said.

— *BARBARA STERNIG*